

Falcons Can It

by Cesar Claro

Bishop Ford's Canned Food Drive was held once again this year from November 7th to November 23rd. For the seventh consecutive year the drive was conducted by Mr. Kiernan and the members of the National Business Honor Society. This year the money and food raised were sent to two worthy causes, The Little Sisters of the Poor and Covenant House.

The drive consisted of various events such as a turkey raffle, the collecting of canned foods, and four cake sales. The turkey raffle and the cake sales were held in the cafeteria during the lunch periods.

Mr. Kiernan's reasons for taking the position of coordinator of the canned food drive are mainly centered around his altruistic concern about world hunger and poverty. He feels that, "Since we are supposed to set aside one day to give thanks for what we have, what better way to show that sincerity than to give a little of what we have to those who don't have anything."

Although there was a significant decline in the amount of money raised this year (\$375.00 in '82 and \$203.00 in '83), Mr. Kiernan feels that, "The Ford community still shows their undwindling care every year at this time, and although there was a decline this year, the thought was still there and will always be."

Dance-a-thon Planned

by Joseph Navarra

Probably the biggest school-wide activity of the year, the Dance-a-thon for Muscular Dystrophy, will take place this year on the weekend of Jan. 27-28. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the dance-a-thon, here's a little background.

The first step is registration. Dancers and workers have forms to fill out and must raise one hundred dollars in order to participate. To supervise the various aspects of the dance-a-thon, different committees have been formed: food, decoration, cleanup and publicity.

Last year the dance-a-thon had close to three hundred dancers and raised over twenty-four thousand dollars. Nationwide, in terms of money collected, we were the fourth highest high school in the country and the seventh highest school overall, including colleges and universities. This year we hope to move up a few notches.

As sort of a toast to our accomplishments, we have been invited to the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon here in New York and in Las Vegas. This year, with the participation of the freshmen and sophomores, we should have the biggest dance-a-thon ever.

In Memoriam

The Editors and Staff of **Highpoint** dedicate this, our Christmas issue, to the fond memory of Mr. Robert Vertucci.

HIGH POINT

J. YACILA

Vol. 8, No. 2

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

November-December, 1983

Governor Cites Seniors

by Martha Colon

The prestigious Governor's Citation for scholarship, character, citizenship, and service to school, has been awarded to four of our seniors, Martha Colon, Stephanie Kieszak, Joseph Navarra and Tania Serrano, all of whom will receive their certificates on graduation day.

A committee made up of faculty and administrators all familiar with seniors chose

one recipient out of every 100 students of the class of 1984.

Those cited are eligible for scholarships for undergraduate study based on financial need. The number of scholarships available is determined by funds raised by private sources. In addition, many colleges and universities will provide half of the scholarship, while the Governor's Committee will pay the rest of the tuition.



Stephanie Kieszak, Joseph Navarra, Martha Colon and Tania Serrano.

Full Calendar For Seniors

by Lisa Costagliola

The graduating class of 1984 should be very busy, socially, for the next five or six months. On the agenda for the upcoming months are several senior activities. Along with the traditional events, three fresh ideas have been marked on the calendar.

The first new event is the Masquerade Party on November 23. This event is a derivative of the traditional Halloween party.

Next on the agenda is the first annual senior-faculty Christmas party. Santa will be visiting the seniors and faculty on December 22 at Prospect Hall.

To start the new year off with a kick, January 26 has been designated a senior holiday. On this day, the seniors will "ride 'em cowboy" on a day trip to a dude ranch.

Again in March, it's off to a new start with the second annual Hawaiian Night on the sixteenth. This relatively new event marks the coming of spring and the onset of "seniorites."

After Hawaiian Night most seniors will be resting up for the ultimate festivity, the Senior Prom, on May 30.

The prom will lead the seniors to the highlight of their high school career, graduation. After June 2, it's on to bigger and better things.

A Warm Welcome to Miss Petralia

by Domenick Bufano

Following the tragic and untimely death of Robert Vertucci, Miss Joan Petralia has come to Bishop Ford for the first and most difficult assignment of her young career; she'll teach science to freshmen and juniors.

Born and raised in Queens, Miss Petralia went to St. Anastasia Elementary School, attended St. Mary's High School for Girls, and recently graduated from Boston College.

Miss Petralia describes Bishop Ford as a nice and friendly school. She comes to us with mixed emotions, happy to start her career in a top school, and sad that students have to get adjusted to a new teacher in mid-stream.

Undoubtedly she'll stand to the task, aided by a burning desire to succeed, a devotion to teaching, and the vigorous enthusiasm of youth: "I will be a very active member of the Science Department, devoting much of my free time to the Science Club."

A warm welcome to Miss Petralia.



Pictured above is the cast of *Charley's Aunt*. Seated, left to right: Susan Garcia, Christine Vezo, Jeanette Pagano, Doris Gonzalez and Gina Schone. Standing, left to right: Robert Grant, Philip Guarrera, Charles Sweeney, James O'Neil, Daniel Artz and Matt Pettenato.

Chalk Up One For Charley's Aunt

by Eileen Slavin

On December 16th and 17th, Bishop Ford's Drama Club will present "Charley's Aunt." But what I'd like to tell you about is all the hard work that begins many weeks before and ends in these two performances.

Almost immediately after the cast for the play is selected, the actors begin rehearsals. A month before the play, "blocking" or stage positions, have been finished. Then the actors must really begin to memorize their lines. Meanwhile, the stage crew has also begun their work. They've begun to build, set and paint flats, set the lights and generally exhaust themselves. Many times, sets are not finished until within hours of curtain time.

The week of the 12th is commonly referred to as "hell week." This is the week of technical and dress rehearsals. Tempers are short, and often actors and stage hands do not leave school until 9:00 p.m.

From 2:30 to about 5:00 p.m. everyone has been pitching in to finish the set. Then, after a short break, a run-through of the play begins. This should end at about 8:00 p.m., but, of course, with all the foul ups, it never does.

On the night of the play you can feel the tension backstage. Everyone is nervous, as hopes are high for a good show.

Why would anyone want to go through this? How about a successful show, a lot of good times, and many long-lasting friendships?

National Honor Societies Welcome New Members

by Laura Anne Allen

On November 18th at 7:30 p.m. forty-six students were inducted into Ford's honor societies, the National Honor Society and the National Business Honor Society.

The Bishop Ford Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted nineteen seniors, ten juniors, and two sophomores. This prestigious secondary organization was founded to recognize and encourage student scholarship and also to acknowledge and foster student character, leadership and service.

To become eligible for N.H.S., sophomores, juniors, and seniors must have an 85% or above average, be active in two or more school and community activities, and not have accumulated more than five demerits. Membership is granted to students based on their past records and completion of a "student profile."

The officers of the National Honor Society are President James Toppin, Vice President Julio Laboy, Secretary Stephanie Kieszak, and Treasurer Joe Tesoriero, with Mr. Kenneth Tom as moderator.

The following students have been accepted as probationary members of the National Honor Society: Marko Bradica Jr., Cesar Claro, Eileen Cole, Martha Colon, Josephine Consolo, Brian Dolan, Kenneth Henderson, Jeremiah Hester, Yolanda Lake, Jennifer Mills, Adrienne Palmieri, Maria Pira, Rosemarie Mazzone, Stephan Ryan, Virginia Pearson, Maria Sciascia, Joe Soluzzi, Allison Thomas, Fabio Vozila, Mary Colon, Marie Lucie Francois, Adrienne Fuego, Michael Hernandez, John Kalb, Elizabeth Larrauri, Thomas McManus, Peter Nash, Susan Trukawinski, Vicklyn Vincent, Laura Anne Allen, and Elizabeth Rollo.

The Bishop Ford Chapter of the National Business Honor Society inducted nine seniors and six juniors. The National Business Honor Society is an organization which encourages business students to strive for excellence in their business subjects.

To apply for NBHS, juniors and seniors must have an 80% or above overall average and an 85% or above in business subjects. Membership is granted, provided students have taken one business course the previous year.

The president of the National Business Honor Society is Evelyn Cobo, with Mr. Gerald Kiernan as moderator.

The following students have been accepted as probationary members of the National Business Honor Society:

Cindy Amerise, Maria Camiolo, Sandra Casagrande, Evelyn Cobo, Laurie Fricelli, Roseann Gambole, Adrienne Liqouri, Josephine Wainwright, Rosemary Zadroga, Ann Brennan, Karen Dombkowski, Doreen Iacolino, John Kalb, Cathleen Newman, Josephine Iuliano.

The Editors and Staff of **Highpoint** wish Mr. James Guinnessy the best of luck and happiness in his new career.

The Day After: What Next?

by Martin Brennan

Now that all the media hype and talkshows are over, the only lasting, significant aspect of the T.V. movie "The Day After," that remains is the issue which hatched this pioneering effort. The issue is, of course, nuclear weaponry.

The movie attempts to portray the grim aftermath of a Soviet-American nuclear confrontation. In doing so, its makers were accused of being everything from extreme leftists to subversives to Soviet propagandists. Conservatives were worried that the movie's one-sided political statement would influence the public in an "undesirable" way.

Other opponents of the movie felt that it would inspire a state of resolved desolation among the population or, worse yet, spark increased opposition to President Reagan's nuclear policy. Heaven forbid.

Proponents of the nuclear freeze movement, on the other hand, embraced the film as some kind of history-making event that would forever alter our views on nuclear diplomacy. They were hoping that public opinion would favor their suicidal idea of a unilateral freeze.

Despite high expectations from all corners, the movie was a big letdown. The media so hyped this film as a showcase of revelation and horror that it could not possibly live up to its expectations. Because it was shown on T.V., the film could only touch upon or suggest such subjects as cannibalism and anarchy, two probable results of nuclear attack.

ABC spent approximately seven million dollars making a film about what is perhaps the most important issue of all time, and if they are lucky, they just might break even. It tells you something about where a country's priorities lie when "Who Shot J.R." outgrosses "Who Destroyed Kansas City" by tens of millions of dollars in commercial time.

However, we can afford some optimism because "The Day After" stimulated one of the largest T.V. viewing audiences ever. Despite its many shortcomings as a film, "The Day After" had one major success. It sparked discussion and interest in a topic that was sorely in need of such resuscitation. The more we examine the nuclear dilemma the more we realize that, one, the missiles will not go away just because we want them to, and two, the only possible solution lies somewhere along the road of bilateral dialogue. It may be hoped that "The Day After" will be remembered as a beginning along this long road to survival.

Can Yuri Come Out And Play?

by Andrew Renna

News that could have major importance in the weeks to come is the condition of the Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov. Andropov has been absent from public view for more than two months. He was last seen in public on August 18 when he met with nine visiting senators from the United States. Reports coming out of the Soviet Union stated that the Soviet oligarch is suffering from a cold.

Most recently noticed was Andropov's absence from the ceremonies marking the Soviet Union's most important holiday, the 66th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution (the establishment of the Russian Communist Party). Andropov was also absent from another significant Soviet occasion, the Revolution Day parade. This parade is a display of the Soviet Union's military might viewed by the members of the

Politburo, the leading committee of the Soviet Union, in Moscow's Red Square. His absence from both of these important events sparked many questions about Andropov's condition by the Soviet people and foreign diplomats. The answers given to all these questions were the same: Andropov was suffering from a cold.

It seems unlikely that this reason is true, because a cold does not last 111 days.

Rumors suggest that Andropov's health problems range from a kidney infection to Parkinson's disease (a form of paralysis characterized by muscular rigidity, tremor, and general weakness).

When, and if, Yuri Andropov recovers from his recent illness, it is doubtful that we will ever find out the real reason behind his absence, due to the Soviet Union's persistent secrecy about internal affairs.

Ford Improves Image

by Brian Wick

We have all heard Bishop Ford referred to as a "country club" or as "pill hill," but do we here at Bishop Ford really believe these statements? I've talked with several students and some of the faculty, and, generally, they believe Bishop Ford doesn't have a drug problem. While some students may use drugs, it's not a widespread problem, and in just about any school you go to, some people will be using drugs. About this "country club" image, if you take easy classes and barely pass them, it's a "country club," but if you take the harder classes and get high marks in them, it's not a "country club."

I discussed the image problem with Brother Michel, and he assured me that we really don't have any serious problems here. He said we really have a fine academic standing, and ninety-five percent of students who go to college after graduating from Ford make their first choice college. He went on to tell me that students who graduated from Bishop Ford went to the same colleges as those from the other private schools in Brooklyn. Brother Michel also said he doesn't think Ford is a country club.

While the image of Bishop Ford is improving, it is up to us who don't believe these rumors to disprove them.

Profile of a High School

by Stephanie Kieszak

Has anyone ever asked you why you go to Bishop Ford? If so, they usually follow up by asking what school you've been expelled from or how often you take drugs.

Ford has been plagued by a bad reputation since the 1960's. The school was commonly referred to as "Pill Hill." Unfortunately, this image has not yet died completely. Many people still question the value of a Bishop Ford education. At the Open House held here, a number of parents asked me about the courses offered. They seem to think of Ford as a cross between a playground and a drug rehabilitation center.

Bishop Ford is not the best school in Brooklyn, but it's not the worst, either. Last

year the senior class received forty-eight Regents scholarships. A large percentage of the graduates go to college, and some of this year's seniors are applying to Ivy League schools.

Bishop Ford has a great deal to be proud of, including our athletic teams and special events. The Dance-a-thon has been a source of pride for the students. Last year, Bishop Ford was fourth in line for the amount of money collected from high schools.

Generally, people believe Ford's old reputation because they haven't been told any of the good things that happen here. Good students are not exceptions to the rule at Ford; they are the rule. It's up to you to let people know this. Bishop Ford has a lot to offer, and always will.



The Bishop Ford High School Chapel at Christmas.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

by Tania Serrano

Which tradition was begun first in the U.S., the turkey at Thanksgiving or the Christmas tree at Yuletide?

In the autumn of 1621, Massachusetts Bay Governor William Bradford invited neighboring Indians to join the pilgrims in a three-day festival of recreation and feasting in gratitude for the bounty of the land. The main dish at the feast was turkey, since they were plentiful in North America. And so began the tradition of turkey day (Thanksgiving).

The Christmas tree is usually a balsam or Douglas fir tree, decorated with lights and ornaments as a part of our Christmas festivities. The Christmas tree was brought to the U.S. as early as the 17th century by German settlers.

In 1620, the pilgrims celebrated their first Christmas in the U.S. But that winter was very cold and long; many died of starvation and disease. Whether they decorated Christmas trees is doubtful. The following year they would celebrate "turkey day," making it the first of the two traditions to be held in the U.S.

Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and will have a Merry Christmas, or is it the other way around?

A Christmas Tragedy

by Bill Brennan

Harry has been lucky all day. The kind of people who usually look at him with contempt have been kind and generous to him. Harry has collected \$25 today, just by begging. He could stay drunk for three days with that; the thought comforts him.

Harry is thirty-five, has a wife (she kicked him out four years ago because of his drinking) and two kids who don't even remember him. He has a touch of gray in his greasy hair, is unshaven, dirty, and wearing ragged clothes. Now that he has a fresh bottle for the night, his next question is where to find shelter.

"Maybe Penn Station," he says aloud as if in a heated debate. This conversation with

the world lasts about five minutes before he settles on Penn Station. The terminal seems particularly empty tonight to Harry as he heads for the lower level. A half-eaten roast beef hero attracts him to the garbage can at track 24. Harry takes his time on the sandwich because the mayonnaise is not sour yet and the bread still soft. "What a supper," he thinks, as he washes down the bread with a large swig of wine.

The wine is returning Harry to his usual stupor; he starts toward his resting place (a dormant train located about seventy-five yards down track 16). He descends the stairs and is walking dangerously close to nine hundred volts of electricity. A handful of com-

Butt Out, Big Brother!

by Carolyn Dopman

Many years ago, Dr. Albert Schweitzer reminded us, "If we ever lose respect for any human life, very quickly we lose respect for human life itself."

Perhaps Dr. Schweitzer's thoughts should be given consideration in the controversy concerning Baby Jane Doe.

Born almost two months ago on Long Island, Baby Doe has been afflicted with a genetic defect called spina bifida. This is an opening of the spine, exposing the central nervous system, causing water on the brain, and producing an abnormally small skull.

After receiving advice from numerous qualified physicians, her parents have chosen not to permit corrective surgery, which would enable her to go on living, bedridden and retarded, perhaps, for approximately twenty years. Baby Jane's life will last one to two years without this surgery.

When should a life be prolonged? Is a painful limited existence better or worse than no existence at all? If the child is incapable of being aware of herself, then the parents have made the proper and moral choice. On the other hand, if she can experience love, joy and laughter in the midst of her misery, is that not better than never having lived?

In such a situation, do the parents have the right to choose for the child? Will they think only of the child, or will their personal cost and suffering flavor their decision? Does the state have an obligation to defend the right of all humans to life, as stated in our federal documents, or will their choice be altered by the financial drain such a child places on society?

There are no clear answers to these questions, but as a society and as individuals, we have a moral obligation to maintain all conscious human life, unless the individual requests otherwise.

We need to expand our sense of humanity to include all other living, conscious beings. We need to remember that "no man is an island."

muters looks on from the adjacent track. The commuters are joined by a pseudo-Santa Claus collecting for the needy. Santa rings his bell shouting, "Merry Christmas." Harry knew Christmas was coming, but so soon? How could he forget. Tears well up in his eyes and stream down his face. The gift-laden commuters turn away from the sobbing derelict below them. Harry's thoughts turn to his family; all he wants for Christmas is a visit, but he knows better.

The train is in the station as Harry continues down the tracks. The train departs and is halted abruptly outside the station. The passengers returning to their families become agitated. Harry never goes home.



1984: A Review

by Judy Santiago

1984 is just around the corner. With every new year we look forward to new developments and goals. Ironically, there is a book entitled 1984, which was written in the 1940's by an Englishman named George Orwell, predicting the future of the world.

The main character, Winston, is a typical member of this future society, whose every move and thought is controlled by telescreens maintained by government officials. "The Party" is the leading group of government, consisting of manipulative men who wish to create a "perfect" society. Winston secretly rebels against the Party, along with his love, Julia. Winston and Julia are constantly on their guard, making secret rendezvous in order not to arouse suspicion. The outcome may provoke you to question your own faith and loyalty to both yourself and "the ones you love."

The book may not give a characteristic outline of the future. But possibilities are endless, and what individual out there can determine our fate or deny the reality of such a society as that of 1984?

Inquiring Reporter

by Pat Santangelo

Question: After viewing "The Day After," what is your opinion on the missile crisis and nuclear war?

Ms. Sarnelle: "The sooner we put our faith in God, the sooner this nuclear threat will end."

James F., 306: "It should warn leaders to be more cautious when talking about nuclear weapons."

Emil Platarioti, 309: "I think they should start having better control over things."

Mr. Bate: "Ban the Bomb!"

Maria Espinal, 304: "Nuclear freeze!"

Mr. Chiusano: "The horror of nuclear war has been well documented; I don't need to be convinced. I think our indignation should now be turned into political action."

Mr. Slow: "The point should be how to prevent any of this from really happening."

Mike Raiola, 309: "The money wasted on nuclear weapons should be used to better society and improve education."

At the Movies

by The Invincible Razukasman

Richard Pryor: Here and Now, the latest film from the comic genius, hardly stands up against his other works. A concert film originally taped on video and later transferred to film, the picture quality is execrable. While Pryor does get off a few good ones on the President ("I met the President; we in trouble") and El Salvador ("Why we fighting El Salvador? It only got about thirty-five people"), most of his attempts at humor fail miserably and only wind up as strings of obscene language.

This movie only gets a two out of ten on my scale. To sum it up briefly, this movie does for movies what Jones-town Kool-aid does for kids drinks.

Raving Reporter Asks

by the Unconquerable
Razukasman

Question: Do you still believe in Santa Claus?

"I still believe in him."

—Brother Michel

"Of course. Doesn't everybody?"

—John Comis, 203

"Why not?"

—Martin Brennan, 302

"I never did believe; Santa Claus is a figment of my imagination."

—Chris Hyatt, 206

"I don't believe in Santa Claus (anymore); I caught him when I was 11. I caught the Easter Bunny when I was 12."

—Chris Davis, 403

"I never stopped believing."

—Doug Renna, 211

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mom said he came down the boiler instead of the chimney."

—Fabian Zabatta, 214

"I don't believe in him; I don't even have a chimney."

—Joe Cuicchio, 203

"Santa Claus who?"

—Mr. Ebenezzer Slow

Cinema Samplings: Fire and Ice

by the Awe-Inspiring
Razukasman

Nekron, Lord of the Ice Regions, is making his final move to conquer Firekeep, the last stronghold of good on Earth.

So starts **Fire and Ice**, the new animated venture from Frank Frazetta and Ralph Bakshi. The story continues with Nekron's minions kidnapping Teegra, Princess of Firekeep. Then Larn, whose home was ravaged by Nekron, teams up with the mysterious Darkwulf to rescue the voluptuous Teegra and destroy the threat of Nekron.

This movie was good. I'll admit, the plot was little more than an excuse for violence, but the animation techniques are so life-like that the movie is worth seeing just for that. Darkwulf, the most interesting character, fascinates the viewer with his lightning-fast combat moves, a credit to the animators.

All-in-all, the superior animation, fascinating musical score and excellent artwork make this movie a cinema event not to be missed. **Fire and Ice** gets an eight on the Razukascale.

Our Lady of Angels Teen Club . . .

will be holding auditions for this year's musical production, **Bye Bye, Birdie**, on Monday, 2 January, from 6 to 10 P.M., and on Tuesday, 3 January, from 7 to 10:30 P.M. Our Lady of Angels is located at 347 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York. For further information, please see Mr. Anderson.

Who Is Daniel Piselli?



Mr. Daniel Piselli

by Sonia Maria Lopez

This issue of **Highpoint** features Mr. Daniel Piselli, a member of the math department of Bishop Ford High School. He has taught here for six years, but he isn't new to the Ford community, having graduated from here. After high school, Mr. Piselli attended St. Francis College, where he earned a bachelor of science in math.

When asked how he feels about teaching at Ford, he replied enthusiastically, saying he loves it, especially the atmosphere around the school. He enjoys working with the faculty and says he, "Couldn't think of a nicer group of students to work with."

In addition to teaching all day, Mr. Piselli keeps busy around school after classes. He is presently coaching basketball, and in the spring he will coach the tennis team. In addition to these jobs, he is also moderator of the Karate Club. This involvement he attributes to the fact that he likes being around students.

Since he really enjoys working here, Mr. Piselli hopes to remain here for a very long time.

The Razukascale for the Cinema:

- 1—forget it
- 2-4—you could miss it
- 5-6—not bad
- 7-8—worth a look
- 9—superior
- 10—amazing, don't miss it

AC/DC

by Michael Paladino

It looks like the power has been sent down the line again. "Flick of the Switch," the current release by AC/DC, is a heavy-metal hit. The song-writing team consists of guitarists Angus Young, Malcolm Young, and Brian Johnson. This team has been together for only three years, but it has managed to keep the group's musical style the same since the departure of Bon Scott. AC/DC's hard-hitting rock keeps its fans asking for more all the time.

The album itself, which contains ten tracks, is a production of tunes varying from the fast-moving pace of "Landslide" and "Brain Shake," to the down-and-dirtiness of "This House is on Fire" and "Badlands." The guitar work, in general, by the Young duo, is excellent, which is the real success of this group.

Dear Friends,

Have a problem? Have a lot of problems? Surprise: we all do. Have you ever wanted to tell someone your problems? Well, if you have, here is your chance.

I won't promise you all the answers or a miracle solution, but I do promise to listen and never lecture. I've gone through some hard times and, fortunately, I had friends to talk to. Now I want to be a friend.

So, if you have a problem, don't be afraid to reach out. Write me a letter; don't worry about grammar or spelling, just get your feelings down on paper. There's no need to put your name on it, and I will try my best to answer as many of your letters as possible.

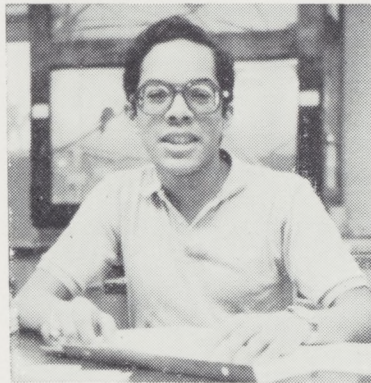
All letters should be slid under the **Highpoint** office door, room 181.

Again, I want to promise you I will try my hardest to be a friend. So, if you feel the need, write me. You will probably be surprised how much better you feel after letting go.

Sincerely,

A Friend

Student Spotlight



James Toppin

by Laura Anne Allen

James Toppin is **Highpoint's** Student Spotlight subject this issue. With Jimmy's busy activities schedule, it was hard to find him, but we caught up with Jim to ask a few questions.

Jim has been on the honor roll since freshman year, is president of the National Honor Society and still has time to engage in many activities. These activities include being a senior leader, the Biology Club coordinator, the Biology Lab Squad coordinator, a member of the Senior Activities Committee, a writer for **Highpoint**, and a competitor in table tennis intramurals. Also, as president of N.H.S., Jim will be one of the chairpersons of the fourth annual Dance-a-thon.

Jim's courses this year include Advanced Biology, Human Physiology, Calculus, and Analysis. When we asked Jim which classes he liked best, he replied, "I love Dr. Defina's crazy classes, of course!"

Following graduation from Bishop Ford, Jim is planning to go to college and major in pre-med. At the present time, Jim is unsure about which college to attend but is looking into Brooklyn College's seven-year medical course.

When asked what this senior would miss most after graduation, he replied, "I'll miss the great times I had with my friends and teachers, and especially the wild times I had in the bio lab."

Dungeons and Dragons

by Louis Hernandez Jr.

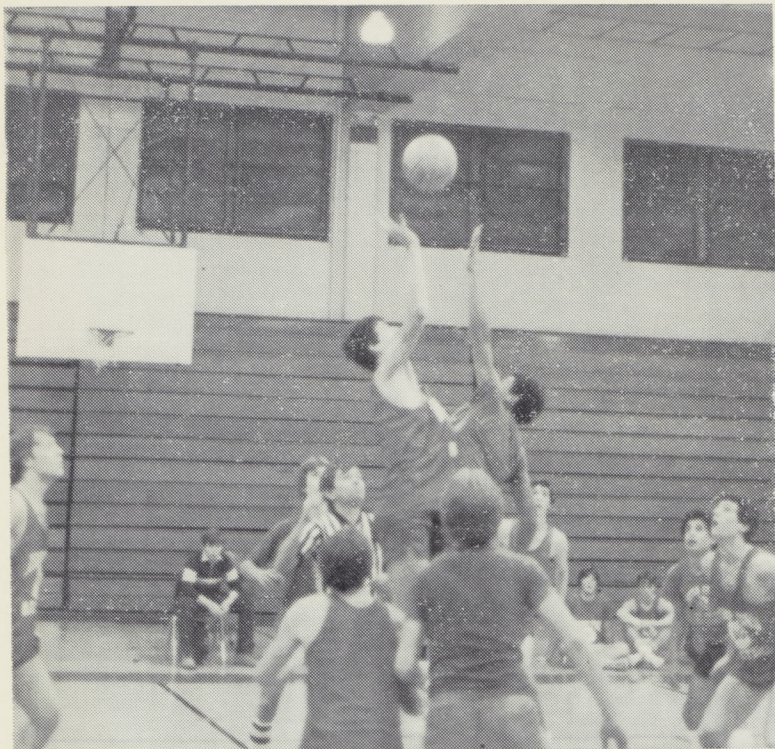
I am a member of a cult. I'm not bald and I don't dance around with a tambourine and I don't give out flowers at airports. Instead, I walk around with an Advanced Dungeons & Dragons Player's Handbook and slay imaginary goblins, orcs and dragons. I'm not alone, though. There are others like me in the Games Club, like Mike Hernandez, Bob Grant, Anthony Warnock, Anthony Volaro and Gene Reynolds. There are still others, like Karen Boan and Chris Richardson, who are in the process of joining the cult.

Advanced Dungeons & Dragons is a very engrossing game, and at times the players seem like cult members. The game requires players to live out their characters in a fantasy-type setting, similar to medieval times. This may involve being a chivalrous paladin, a sly elfish thief, or a brute, half-orcish fighter. The game usually requires a few days to understand in the beginning, but once understood, the players live out their characters as alter egos.

The game is set in a world where one might find knights in shining armor, fire breathing dragons, and, of course, maidens in distress. Individual characters' stats are rolled up with six-sided dice. These stats include strength, intelligence, wisdom, dexterity, constitution, and charisma. With these stats they decide on a race, such as human, elf or dwarf, and on a class, such as paladin, assassin, or magic user. Once characters are prepared, the dungeon master places them in a campaign. The dungeon master is not a player; instead, he is coordinator of all activities on Greyhawk, the civilization where all dungeons & dragons campaigns are set. Campaigns may involve finding treasure, or exploration of a castle and its dungeon, or rescuing a king or princess. The possibilities are endless. If the dungeon master is lazy and doesn't want to create his own campaign, he may buy one at a hobby shop. Some campaigns that I have played involved finding a magic crystal, trying to get out of castle Amber, and chasing after succubi (female demons). One campaign may take months or even years to complete, but most only take a few weeks. During the course of a campaign one player may have four characters die. In Bishop Ford's Games Club, the record for the most characters of a single player dying in one campaign is more than eighteen, held by former student Ray O'Neil (we stopped counting after eighteen).

Advanced Dungeons & Dragons is a very popular game in the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain. At the moment there are six books for the game and a number of monthly magazines. If you are interested in the game and have any questions, drop me a note at the **Highpoint** office and I'll be happy to answer. Or if you know any of the people mentioned above, they'll be happy to answer any questions for a gold piece (dungeon humor).

Falcons Finest . . . Watch 'em, They're Hot!



Mergin Sina wins the tip-off.

by Trish Dolan

Most sports are played by teams. If players perform as a unit instead of as individuals, the outcome of the game is usually success. This year's varsity basketball squad illustrates the definition of **team** to a tee. They work well together, and they have the experience and talent needed to come out on top.

Leadership is very important to a successful effort. Under coach Nash's guidance,

our team has won every scrimmage match thus far. Mr. Nash's game plan this year includes a lot more running, fast breaks, and pressure defense, with the emphasis on more man-to-man coverage. Mr. Nash had this to say: "When more people are at the games, the boys play better, and if not better, harder, and when you play harder you win games. We want to win games, but mostly we want the students to be proud of the boys."

This year's squad consists of: Mergin Sina, Andrew Purdy, Leone DiMartino, Andrew Sullivan, Keith McGlyn, Peter Thurlow, John Galleta, Tom Daly, Marco Goldin, Peter Nash, James Long, Matt Long, and Andy Vilachy. They are predominantly a senior team (the five starters are seniors), but the key to the season is their good attitudes and their strong bench.

When asked for a prediction of how our team will fare this season, the captain said, "We don't believe in predictions. We just play, other people predict." Commenting on the team as a whole, senior Leone DiMartino had this to say: "No one is out for himself; we stick together. We are a team."

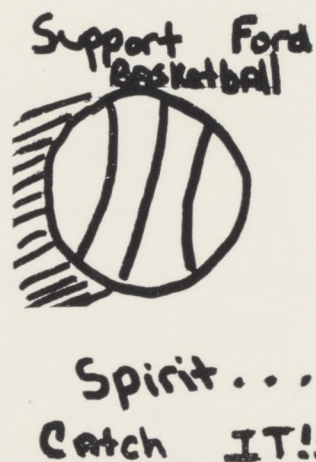
The players want to do their best. They want to win. But mostly, they want to be a team Bishop Ford can be proud of. And we do have quite a bit to be proud of. Mr. Nash and the team are working hard. The players work well together, and they improve each time they play.

Now it's time for the fans to do their part. Let's all get out there and cheer on what promises to be a very successful basketball team.

HIGHPOINT wishes the Ford Community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Peter Nash lays it up.



Lovely Voices Spread Good Cheer

by Anita Armstrong

The Bishop Ford cheerleading season began on December 2 with a game against Nazareth. Both cheerleading squads, j.v. and varsity, cheered on the basketball teams. The boosters also cheered with the varsity cheerleaders.

The cheerleaders have been practicing for weeks. The new cheerleaders were chosen in October by a panel of faculty judges. It was nice seeing the faculty getting involved in the selection. The cheerleaders were judged on stunts, cheers and voice control.

The varsity cheerleaders have a new dance that was choreographed and taught to them by Donna Homan. The dance is done to the disco song, "Let the Music Play."

The varsity cheerleaders have not been any better or any worse than the squads of recent years. The squad has a group of girls who know the cheers and are loud. The squad also has girls who don't cheer and let the others do the cheering.

The varsity cheerleaders are being organized by two new ladies. They have a new moderator and a new captain. Their new moderator is Ms. Martorella of the Business Department. Their new captain is Donna Homan. Both ladies are doing a marvelous job. They are both tough and dedicated, which will make this squad one to be reckoned with.

Bowling Teams Knock'em Down

by Andrew Renna

Intramural bowling got off to a great start this year, with twenty-seven teams competing in four different divisions, each trying to win a championship. Each week a team of four players competes against another to determine which team can knock down the most pins.

The standings are very close, with The Titans, The Best Team, The Jumpin' Jezzabels, and F.T.W. all leading their respective divisions.

Jesse Jackson: One Man's Goal

by Martin Brennan

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, since officially announcing his candidacy for the democratic nomination, has been crisscrossing the country, attempting to gain grassroots support for his presidential bid.

Why, you may ask, would a person spend ten million dollars, sacrifice any privacy he used to possess, inaugurate himself as a prime target for assassination, and run around the country shouting things like, "We can go from the slave ship to the championship," all for an office that he has virtually no chance of winning. The man obviously has something more important to accomplish than winning the democratic nomination.

Jackson's main goal is to stimulate the stagnant black voting power. He hopes to get blacks to unite and use their political power to serve their best interests. Jackson also hopes that other blacks will follow his lead and run for office. "My running will stimulate thousands to run and millions to register," he says. Getting citizens to use their vote (the most sacred right of any democratic institution) is in itself a truly noble cause.

To generate a wider base of support, Jackson has proposed a "rainbow coalition" of blacks, other minorities, women, laborers, peace activists, and the poor.

The reason for this rise in black political activism can be traced back to the White House. President Reagan's budget cuts and his perceived insensitivity to civil rights have spurred blacks to an awakening in awareness of their role in the American political process.

Jackson's candidacy is, at the same time, a blessing and a curse for the democratic party. Some leaders fear he could damage the black cause by drawing support away from liberal candidates such as Walter Mondale. Jackson is hoping to have enough delegates at the convention to act as a broker to gain concessions from the leading candidates. With black support behind them, Mondale and Glenn have an excellent chance of recapturing the White House. Jesse, by the way, has promised not to run as an independent, a tactic that would only aid the common enemy, President Reagan.

It is estimated that if black voter participation increased by 25%, President Reagan could lose eight states he won in 1980. For example, in Alabama, a state that has 270,000 unregistered black voters, Reagan won by only 17,000 votes. In our own state, 900,000 blacks are not registered (55% of those eligible). These states should send at least a minor tremor through the reelection HQ of the President. Therefore, we are likely to see a major civil rights oriented public relations campaign to strengthen Reagan's image among blacks.

Despite Jesse's popularity among blacks, most experienced politicians, white and black, are against his candidacy for a variety of reasons. First of all, he has no chance of winning. He also has no political experience. His flamboyant style has turned off others, and despite the fact that he has fostered



The Cross-Country Brooklyn Champs pictured above, top row, left to right: Rich Luchese, Steve Loesch, Derrik Williams, Gaetano Castellano, James McDermot, Coach Lou Vazquez; bottom row: James Shashaty and Mark Bell. Ford's team has won the Private School Championships for nine consecutive years.

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 500 19 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215

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some innovative plans, most of them have failed due to a lack of administrative leadership.

The lesson to be learned here is this: Don't run for president just because you are black and have a special cause, for you are doomed to lose both the election and a lot of money. If the black community wishes to have a worthy presidential candidate, they should make sure that he is politically experienced, and more importantly, that he appeals to a wider group of citizens, not just to a large special interest group.